



Brian Schweitzer, Governor

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Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review and comment are the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Holcim Tire Burning Proposal and the revised Preliminary Determination for the modification to Holcim's Air Quality Permit #0982, attached as Appendix C.

Under the Proposed Action, Holcim's air quality permit would be modified to allow the use of tires, in combination with other fuels, in its cement kiln near Three Forks. Slag use would also be restricted to levels that meet negligible risk standards for human health. Holcim would also receive a solid waste management system license to allow storage of tires on its property. The Draft EIS analyzes the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. The Draft EIS addresses issues and concerns raised between December 2001 and the close of the public scoping period on January 23, 2004.

The rules implementing the Montana Environmental Policy Act (ARM 17.4.617) require that DEQ indicate a preferred alternative, if one has been identified. Stating a preference at this time would not be a final decision. The preferred alternative could change in response to public comment on the Draft EIS, new information that becomes available, or new analysis that might be needed in preparing the Final EIS. At this time, DEQ does not have a preferred alternative. DEQ has tentatively selected the Proposed Action, which would be modified by permit conditions.

Public comments on the adequacy and accuracy of the Draft EIS and on the Preliminary Determination will be accepted until September 28, 2006. Written comments may be sent to the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Director's Office, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901, attn: Greg Hallsten.

A public hearing to receive verbal and written comments will be held during the comment period. Hearing details will be announced through area media.

The Final EIS might only contain public comments and responses and changes to the Draft EIS. Please keep this Draft EIS for future reference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard H. Oppen'.

Richard H. Oppen, Director
Montana DEQ